Bristol, Novr. 14th 1850
Thursday

My dear Miss Weston

On returning last ~~wednes~~Tuesday evening from Clevedon, where we had been staying for 3 weeks for change of air & quietness, I found, among a pile of letters, papers &c. waiting for me your letter of Oct. 27th which had arrived the preceding eveg. but was not forwarded to me on account of our speedy return. I selected it at once for the first to be read, & received gratification from perusing it, tho' not unmixed with concern at your having had so much disappointment in the receipt of letters from the Swiss travellers. Tho' I feel certain that your anxiety has long since been removed, & your desire for ample information satisfied. I think the circumstances of interrupted communication under which you last wrote to me, induces me sooner than I might otherwise have done, to lose no mail in answering your friendly letter. So confirmed did I feel while in the company of your family, that they wrote to you at least every fortnight, that I presumed you knew much more of their proceedings than we did, & therefore I said little about their movements. Letters must have miscarried, or have been delayed.

Our last from them, (from Miss W.) was dated Vevey Oct 2 where I hoped they would fall in with some Swiss friends of mine named Schérer. We hear since thro' Mrs Parkes, who is no distant neighbour of Mrs. Follen's in London, that the party have taken up quarters in Place Vendôme No 15 Paris, a nice situation.—

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Your letter was placed in some contest for precedence in being noticed on our return with two Liberators, one of which I knew wd- contain a report of the great Fug: Slave Bill Meeting at Fan! Hall, which I was most impatient to see. The Resolutions at that large meeting did not quite reach up to the mark in my expectation but I suppose I know little of what is really most suitable. I cannot say I regret the determination of many of the colored people to defend their personal liberty by force - it wd- be unnatural for them not to do so. No one, I mean of the world generally, would condemn a white man for doing so. I feel it difficult to conceive that such a nation as America professg to be in regard to civilization & Christianity, could have the hardihood to pass such a law under the eye of Europe! no act in of your country & government will henceforth surprise me. No stir I fear will be made in this country on the occasion. The British & For: A. S. Socy damns up expression of Antislavery feeling: the Committee has voted some Resolutions of disapproval, & there the matter ends. I wish every town in England would send to the U.S. an address of horror & remonstrance. W. W. Brown is trying to set something of the kind afoot at Newcastle. He writes to me that his Panorama has been hitherto successful.

I have heard to-day from London of Mr. Thompson's safe arrival after a "splendid voyage". As he is now a Member of the British Parliament, he will not be as able as he was formerly to take an active part in questions bearing on Amn. politics.

Mr. Thompson undertook, as W. Brown informs me

to take charge of a book of engravings for the Boston
Bazaar, & a little wooden tray which I packed with
it. The tray was marked. The ~~book~~ engravings are
inferior engravings from superior pencil drawings,
done by Mr. Wm. Parkes, brother of Miss S. Kate Parkes
the translator of Dayloss. Mrs. P. his mother,
presents the book: his name is not to it, for being
a Civil Engineer, such a performance would be
infra dig: the selling price here is 5/6.

We hear H. Box Brown is in Liverpool penniless
having started from Am. with his panorama - from
fear of the new Bill. I have written some days
since to a friend in Liverpool to inquire for him
& if the report is true, to give him some money
for me. My brother-in-law Mr. Bagehot, (one of the
owners of the ship whence the colored steward was taken
at Charleston some months back, & which occasioned
much excitement in London) has called here since
I began this on his way to Liverpool. He will find
out B. Brown & his friend Boxer Smith, and give
them advice & help. Your sister spoke favorably
of Box Brown, so I trust he is a deserving person.

In the few languages of which I know anything,
many words may be taken in a "good" or a "bad
sense". It was in the former aspect that I made
use of the term "frenchified" in reference to Annie.
I trust she never will have any of that falseness,
and insincere politeness, to me so offensive in the
French character: ~~her formal~~ we were quite
amused with Annie's rather formally French man-
ner, but it was evidently caught unconsciously, &

~~her~~, perfectly consistent with entire artlessness.

Dr Gannett's Catechising are reported in the London "Inquirer". I fear my friend R. Carpenter wd say it was perfectly in order for politics to be excluded from a Meeting which had to deal with totally different subjects? –

I greatly admire Theo. Parker's noble stand. How is it that he, Garrison, & many others, of the so called ~~[illegible]~~ irreligious men & infidels, are showing christian fruits which are not to be found among many the truly orthodox? There seems in the world a striking contrast between good & sound doctrine, & sound works!

I am glad that Mr W. Phillips & yourself are satisfied with the Appeal for the Bazaar in W. Brown's little book. I always rather supposed that it, as well as my "Reply" to the 9 Muses would appear ~~[illegible]~~ cold & tame to you. But the impassioned language of your writers, does not do for our quiet temperaments. Strong ~~[illegible]~~ expressions with us are considered rather to weaken than strengthen an appeal; they indicate, in our estimation, substitutes for a strong case. – You can scarcely suppose how little is known here about Abolitn in America, even among our professed Antislavery people. The greater part of ~~as~~ the English who have heard that there are, what are called Abolitn in the U.S. (they are sometimes ~~the~~ mentioned in our newspapers) regard them as busy bodies who are retarding the emancipation of the slaves! To such the statements in the Appeal are especially new.

2nd/ Thank you for the copy of the Lib.r you were so
kind as to give me, — & also for your good wishes
for my recovery of health. I am better than I was
before I went into the country; able to see a few
patients ~~at~~ from 2 to 3 O'Clock, and to write,
as I am now doing, without discomfort. How I
am to fare during the winter, I know not, but
hope for the best. At Clevedon I walked out daily.
You & your sister Caroline have a similar hor-
ror of illness, & express yourselves in very simi-
lar terms.   Much of my life has been spent
in the chambers of the sick. To witness long con-
tinued bodily suffering, is indeed sad, but the sum
of my experience is, that "the blast has been tem-
"pered to the shorn lamb," and that in retrospect,
the affliction has been regarded as a benefit.

I have seen so much of quiet submission under
long continued, & hopeless disease, that I can hardly
consider those who thus endure as "eminent
saints." But policy, if no higher principle, should
tend to prevent impatience & discontent in the
sick who are so dependent for their comfort upon
the affectionate attention, & cheerful spirit of
those who minister to them. I have had much
experience in my own person of confinement to the
sick chamber, & however I may have failed in ~~[illegible]~~
learning other lessons from the trial, I do not think I
under-appreciate the love & service which I have
~~experienced~~ received in no limited extent.

My next letter must be to another Annie, — your niece. A friend goes to Paris on Monday, & Annie is expecting something from me, tho' she does not know what it is excepting a _flea_ & a glass to see it with. At Heidelberg she was amused with one I showed her alive in a little microscope. I promised her to prepare it as a slide & let her have it — I am going to send with it a little microscope, for she seemed to be much interested with that I had, & very _handy_ with it. As An: will have her present before she can hear of it from you, I do not withhold from you this _important secret_.

I would give you a glance at our Continental trip, but I have not time, & the thoughts of the few lines & rapid manner in which I could only give it, makes me _out of breath_.

Friday, Nov. 15th

If I do not allude now to our trip, I never shall, so prepare yourself for only the heads of a Chapter, — _without the Chapter_, — for the "_play_" without the "_part_" of Hamlet.

My daughter & I went to Paris on purpose to meet your family; & Mrs Follen & Miss Cabot kindly prolonged their departure for a day or two to see us. We were a month in Paris, visiting, & being visited by, our friends, daily nearly, if not twice daily, & well _bored_ they were with our questions & ignorance on U. S. affairs.

We economized in Paris conjointly as much as we could so arrange our parties (_We_ dwelt

with the Parkers close to the President's) We
spent a pleasant day at St Germain & Sargent
being with us:- part of another at St. Dennis.
I ~~had~~ (and a mad friend, a patient,) had the plea-
sure of conducting our party over the Insane Asylum
at Charenton. At Madame Mohl's we met:
where I had the amusement of hearing this very pe-
culiar individual ~~&~~ coolly address Emma as
"my beauty." – We visited together Scheffer's
Studio. ~~&~~ I felt it an incident of no ordinary
interest to be standing in front of such a picture
as the "Christus Consolator", & hearing such a
woman as Mrs M. W. Chapman thanking such
~~[illegible]~~ a painter as Scheffer, for introducing a Negro
into this celebrated Work!

Mary could not tear herself away from our
new associates: when our month of absence from
home had expired in Paris, accompanied by Miss
Parkes we made for Germany. We preceded our
friends by a few hours at Brussels, & were able,
in an unusually crowded state of hotels, to arrange
for their joining us in one without any trouble, as
soon as they arrived, & a pleasant re-union we had.
A day was passed in B. sight seeing. Some Literary
Italian Count called on Mrs Chapman. After
2 nights we proceeded by railway to Cologne, always
in the same carriage: [my thermometer!! that's
too trying a retrospect]. At Cologne we passed a
whole day & two nights: your sister, Caroline, nearly killing
those who had courage to adhere to her, in sight seeing

At one moment we might all have been seen
threading the giddy heights of the ~~both~~ unfinished
roof of the Cathedral. – Annie was "disappointed
with this building. Then on the third day July
(Thursday July 18) off we were on the Rhine: reached
Coblentz just after a thunder storm: were repelled
from one overflowing hotel & took refuge in l'Hotel
du Rhin where the Prince of Prussia was also putti
up. On the following day visited Ehrenbreitste
continued up the Rhine to Mayence, & got to Fran
fort at night: ensconced, we think much "sensa
at l'Hotel de l'Empereur Romain. [at this instan
Mary has come in, & without my knowing what she
was writing to you has read over her full account of the (a
scenes at this hotel: – it is a good sample of our pro-
ceedings which my staid & solemn pen could not
have been so undignified as to describe.]

~~On the~~ All Saturday was passed at Frankfort
& Mrs. Chapman was nearly knocked up with
her omnibus journey to Homburg. On Sunday
morning, before starting, Mrs. Chapman bought lo
glass at the beautiful Bohemian shops. The
shops were reported to be closed on Sundays, on
which fact, Mary while regretting Mrs. C's di
appointment, rejoiced for the sake of the Fran
fort people that they had some respect to the
Day. However, an entrance was not difficult.
We dashed on then to Heidelberg, Chas. Pollen with
his young military cousin greeting us as we
passed thro' Bensheim. – At Heidelberg f

3rd/ a day or two, we were all at one Hotel,
the Badischer Hof: then your party went into
lodgings & we remained. But we met often, &
some of yours would join us in our exploring rides.
The commemoration of the 1st Aug: at that
attractive spot the Castle, you have heard of. Thro'
Mr Chapman's good offices, ~~&~~ we were introduced
the Pouilles & Mohls. & shared their hospitalities
Of the Baden Baden excursion, Emma must
tell you, if Switzerland have not driven it from
her head. Henry Chapman was an "acquisition"
(my young lady friends are greatly offended at
being called an acquisition) to me. He helped me
in several ways; among others, took me to see
a Student's duel, where I saw a young Prussian
have a slight sword cut on the head. Henry's
being member of a "corps," (vulgo, a club)
gave him the privilege of introducing a friend
to the fighting! I imagine the "corps" helped
him to talk German, but was not calculated
to be in any other way useful to him, for he seemed
me too refined for having a taste for duels, smoking
& beer drinking. I have no doubt he soon left
the corps, tho' I can suppose he would gain some
benefit for having been a short time in it.
Mary was much confined at Heidelberg by illness
& was most kindly visited by your family. Our
accommodations for company, were amusing —
b my bed room, & Miss Parker's & Mary's double bedded

one leading from mine: both small, & poorly furnished. But we soon ceased to be a ceremonious party: more than once I was honored by a good night visit from most of the ladies after I had retired to bed. We were 3 weeks at Heidelberg within a day: it was sad to part, but Mary's health made me most anxious to get home – every one of the party joined us at the station to say farewell: but with us there was in "that word, that fatal word", more of promise, hope, belief than of "despair": we were delighted to learn the feelings which gave so deep an interest to the adieu. –

But why have been thus running on? It is to assure you that we have felt it no small privilege to have been ~~so~~ admitted to so close an intimacy with these members of your family circle, to whom I now venture to add yourself.

By the following Saturday, (after visiting Weisbaden, Bonn, Aix & Antwerp) we were landed on English shores, & were in our own comfortable house on the following evening, greeted by Mrs & Kate Parkes who had occupied our house after their return.

If you ever show my letters to any one spare me the disgrace of exhibiting this morning's effusion. Post time is near. Believe me my dear Miss Weston, Sincerely Yours J. B. Estlin